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An Account of some Books.

I. ΚΑΛΥΔΙΟΥ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΑΡΜΟΝΙΚΩΝ ΒΙΒΛΙΑ Γ.

CLAUDII PTOLEMÆI *Harmonicorum Libri Tres. Ex Codd. Mss. Undecim, nunc primum Græce Editi.* Johannes Wallis, ff. Th. D. *Geometriæ Professor Savilianus Oxoniæ, Regiæ Societatis Londini Sodalis, Regiæque Majestati a Sacro; Recensuit, Edidit, Versione & Notis illustravit, & Auctarium adjecit.* Oxonii, e Theatro Sheldoniano, A.D. 1682. In Quarto.

THis work having been never before Printed in *Greek*, and but very imperfectly in *Latine*, by Anton. Gogavinus of *Graves*, above a 100 Years since, when good skill in the *Greek* Tongue was more rare: our learned Professor took it for a Task well agreeing with his Province, to give it us in a more perfect Edition. For which purpose, he hath most diligently compared the *Manuscript* Copies, for restoring and perfecting the *Greek* Text. And adjoyned a new *Latine* Translation of the whole: together, with *Notes* on the *Text*. Therein rectifying many Mistakes of the *Transcribers*; especially in the *Numbers*; which (by Calculation of the whole anew, according to the mind of *Ptolemy*, declared in the *Text*) he hath restored to their Integrity.

This Work of *Ptolemy*, gives an Account of the Nature of Sounds in general, but especially of those which are *Musical*; as of the several Sorts of *Tones*, and their *Ratios* one to another; with other Particulars. Shewing also, how *Harmony* may be fitly compared to the *Motions* of the *Humane Soul*; and those of *Cælestial Bodys*. And is the more considerable, as being not only the best of all the *Greek Musicians*; but as it also gives an Account of the rest; wherein they agreed, or disagreed, one with another; and upon what Principles.

There is also added an *Appendix*, by the *Doctor*, Containing a brief Account of the *Ancient Harmonicks*, according to the different *Sects* of the *Authors*, compared one with another; and with the *Musick* of this Age: Shewing
how

how and wherein the *Greek Musick* agreed or differ'd from ours ; And how the several particulars thereof, are, for the most part, retained in ours, but very differently expressed ; and what in the one, answers to what in the other. There is herein, a short Collection of all or most of what occurs material, in the several *Greek Authors* on this Subject ; as well those Published by *Meibomeus*, as others yet remaining amongst us in *Manuscript* ; all Methodically digested, and brought into a Narrow Compass, that the *Reader* may have at once a view of the *Greek* and *Modern Musick*, compared together. A Work which we doubt not, will be very acceptable to those who are willing to look into the *Speculative Part* of *Musick*.

He hath now also, in the Press at *London*, a Treatise of *Algebra*, Historical and Practical ; Shewing its Original and Progress in several Ages, and the several steps whereby it hath advanced to the height at which now it is. Whereof a further Account is intended, when it is Printed.

II. *Observations upon the DUBLIN-BILLS of Mortality, 1681. And the STATE of that CITY. By the Observer on the LONDON-BILLS of Mortality. London Printed for Mark Pardoe at the Black Raven over against Bedford-House in the Strand, 1683.*

THIS little Book (consisting but of 3 Sheets of Paper) is *Magnum in Parvo*. Containing very Considerable Remarques deduced only from 6 *London-Bills*, 15 *Dublin-Bills*, and a Note of the Families and Hearths in each Parish of *Dublin* : all digested into 3 Tables, marked A, B, C, which the excellent Author ingeniously, yet gravely and truly, calls, *The A, B, C, of Publique Oeconomy*.

To which he hath also subjoyned, the Forms for *Weekly, Quarterly, and Yearly Bills*, in 3 Tables ; which he conceivs might be made an Excellent Instrument of Government : And to that end proposeth them to the Consideration of Authority.

III. JOHANNES GODARTIUS of INSECTS.

Done into English, and Methodized; with the Addition of Notes. By Martin Lister Esq; The Figures Etched upon Copper, by Mr. F. Pl. York, Printed by J. White, for the Publisher, 1682. In Quarto.

THe Learned *Interpreter* doth conjecture, That *Godartius* had no design of Publishing his *Papers* of this *Subject*; but only to gratify his Phancy, and the Excellent Skill he had in Limning. As appears from his almost total neglect of *Descriptions*, which he had sufficient opportunity to have well performed: Besides the tumultuous *Order* in which they were first Published, after his Death. So that he seems rather to have diverted himself by conversing with these *Animals*, (which he did for 40 *Years*) than to have given himself the trouble of well understanding them.

And yet after all this (saith Mr. *Lister*) we shall find him every where, very just and true in his *Observations*. That all the *Insects* he writes of, he most industriously fed, and brought up to their *Change*, which is more than any Man ever did before him. And though the *Histories* he hath given, may seem but few, for so long a time; yet in these few, we have something of all the *Genus's* of *Insects* that are in Nature.

He left his *Papers* in *Dutch*; which were several Times put forth in *Latine*, by divers *Interpreters*; but those wholly ignorant in *Natural History*; and their *Comments* altogether impertinent to the Explication of any one *History* of *Godartius*. Which therefore, in this *Translation* are all omitted; and many Curious and Luciferous *Remarques* subjoyned to the Authors *Text*. Which is here also reduced to a *Method* more agreeable to the several *Tribes* of *Insects*. Whereby those, who have leisure, may be put into a ready way of pursuing this Part of *Natural History*.

Mr.

Mr. *Lifter* hath also taken great Care, and at his own Charges, to have all the *Figures* finely *Etched* upon Copper Plates. The whole Impression, intended for the more curious, consists but of 150 Copies.

IV. EPISTOLA INVITATORIA,

Ad Observationes Magneticæ Variationis, communi Studio junctisque laboribus instituendas. Dat. Altorfi Noricorum Prædie Festi Paschalis, 1682.

DR. *Sturmius. Mathem.* Professor at *Altorf*, the Author of this Letter, herein first takes notice of the several steps by which the Doctrine of the Magnet, hath been advanced to its present State. That its Power of attracting Iron, hath been taken notice of beyond all History. But that its verticity to the Poles, was first observed about 400 years since by our Countryman *Roger Bacon*. That it gives the same vertue to Steel, (whence the Invention of the Needle between 300 and 400 years since) by the *Italians*. The various Delineation of the Needle from the Meridian in various Places, by *Sebastianus, Cabottus*. The Inclination hereof to the nearer Pole, by our Countryman *Robert Norman*. And that within these few Years, the Variation of the Declination, and that in one and the same place, hath also been taken notice of by *Mr. Hevelius, Azout, Petit, Volckamer*; and others.

Upon consideration whereof, and for that it seems by the Observations mentioned, that the said Variation being regularly made, depends not, according to the Conjecture of *Des-Cartes*, upon the Earth, its being more Irony or Magnetick in some places, than in others; nor upon any other irregular Cause: he here Incites the Ingenious in all Countreys, to give their joynt assistance, for the bringing this Point to a certainty. From whence we may reasonably expect, amongst other particulars, great Improvements in these two, *Navigation* and *Geography*.

For this purpose, he wishes, That the Observations may be made every where about the same time, especially, about the *Equinoxes* and the *Summer Solstice*. That the *Meridian* line be taken by *Azimuths*, as one of the best ways. That every Observation be made at least with two *Needles*; and that these *Needles* be neither too little, nor too great; he having frequently experienced the deceitfulness of both extremes. Concluding with a Caution, that the Observations be made upon an exact level.

It is intended, that the *Transactions* for the next Month, shall come forth about the end of the *Term*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Henry Hunt*, Operator to the *Royal Society*.
And Sold by him at the *Repository* in *Gresham College*:
By *J. Rogers* at the *Bible* in *Westminster-Hall*; and by
J. Smith at the *Princes-Arms* in *St. Pauls Church-Yard*.

E R R A T A.

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